

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejected claims 22 and 23 are hereby canceled and only allowed claims 15-21 are pending.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

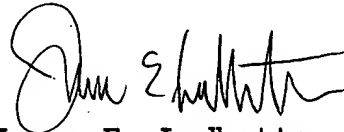
With respect to the Information Disclosure Statements filed June 29, 2000, and November 25, 2003, the Applicants reiterate their request that the Examiner initial and return copies of the previously supplied Forms PTO-1449.

A Request for Consideration of those Information Disclosure Statements was submitted on March 2, 2004, along with, for the convenience of the Examiner, copies of the pertinent Forms PTO-1449, as well as copies of the IDS's, PTO date-stamped filing receipts, and references.

Accordingly, return of the initialed PTO-1449s is respectfully requested with a Notice of Allowance.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: August 20, 2004

JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. JEL 31207

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